

## Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AEC-11 AID-20 DRC-01

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R 221335Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2720

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMJEA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9731

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PSFQ, MOPS, IN, PK

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER REPEATS ALLEGATIONS OF PAKISTANI  
MILITARY BUILDUP

SUMMARY: RESPONDING TO A CALLING-ATTENTION NOTICE IN THE  
RAJYA SABHA (UPPER HOUSE) JULY 22, THE MINISTER OF STATE  
FOR DEFENSE REITERATED THE INDIAN  
ALLEGATIONS ABOUT A PAKISTANI  
MILITARY BUILDUP. THE DEFENSE MINISTER INTERVENED TO SAY  
INDIA "WANTS PEACE BUT WE WANT PEACE FROM A POSITION OF  
STRENGTH." MUCH OF THE GOI STATEX T SEEMED OUT OF TUNE  
WITH APPARENT RELAXATION OF MILITARY TENSIONS IN PAST TEN  
DAYS, BUT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS  
ON PAKISTAN TO THE ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE TWO DAYS  
EARLIER. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE, V.L. SHUKLA, CITED  
PRESS REPORTS THAT PAKISTAN HAD BEEN "INDULGING IN  
ACTIVITIES, BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY, WHICH CAN ONLY  
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LEAD TO TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND SERIOUSLY

DISTURB THE EFFORTS IN PROGRESS FOR CREATION OF DURABLE PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT." AFTER MENTIONING THE PAKISTANI REACTION TO THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AND THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE INDIA-PAKISTAN TALKS, SHUKLA SAID, "WE HAVE NOTICED A NUMBER OF MANEUVERS UNDERTAKEN BY VARIOUS FORMATIONS AND UNITS OF THE PAKISTANI ARMY IN THE PROXIMITY OF THE INDO-PAK BORDER." THERE HAD BEEN "SOME EXTRA ACTIVITY" OF THE PAK AIR FORCE AND NAVY. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY FORWARD MOVEMENT TOWARD THE BORDER IN KASHMIR AND MOVEMENT OF "CERTAIN UNITS, INCLUDING ARMOR" TOWARD THE PUNJAB AND RAJASTHAN BORDER. "CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS ALONG THE LINE OF CONTROL HAD ALSO INCREASED BUT THESE HAVE RECENTLY DECREASED AFTER OUR AUTHORITIES MADE USE OF THE HOT LINE AND INITIATED MEASURES TO DIFFUSE THE SITUATION."

2. SHUKLA CONCLUDED THAT "THESE DEVELOPMENTS CAN ONLY CAUSE CONCERN." LATER, MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM INTERVENED TO SAY THAT, WHILE INDIA HAD BEEN TRYING TO ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, "WE ARE FULLY ALERT AND VIGILANT AND IF ANY MISCHIEF IS COMMITTED ON OUR SACRED BORDERS INDIA WOULD GIVE A FITTING AND EFFECTIVE REPLY."

3. COMMENT: SHUKLA'S STATEMENT HARKS BACK TO THE PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN INDIAN JOURNALISTS JULY 12. IT DOESN'T SAY WHEN THE ALLEGED PAK BUILDUP OCCURRED, NOR DOES IT REFLECT THE SUBSEQUENT RELAXATION. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY TO DO HAD THE GOI WISHED. FOLLOWING FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH'S TOUGH REMARKS ON PAKISTAN JULY 20 (NEW DELHI 9688), IT IS HARD TO AVOID THE CONCLUSION THAT THE GOI HAS DETERMINED TO HOLD TO A HARD LINE IN DEALING WITH PAKISTANI DIPLOMACY. NEVERTHELESS, MINUTES LATER IN THE LOWER HOUSE THE PRIME MINISTER REPEATED HER ASSURANCES TO PAKISTAN ABOUT INDIAN PEACEFUL USES OF ITS NUCLEAR EXPLOSION (SEPTTEL).

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## Message Attributes

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